2011 Military Health System Conference

Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety Innovations: Lessons from the Field

Improving the High-Level Disinfection Process of Vaginal Ultrasound Probes

The Quadruple Aim: Working Together, Achieving Success

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25 January 2011

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Report Documentation Page

Form Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

1. REPORT DATE	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED
25 JAN 2011		**00-00-2011 to 00-00-2011**

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE	5a. CONTRACT NUMBER
Healthcare Quality and Patient Safety Innovations: Lessons from the Field. Improving the High-Level Disinfection Process of Vaginal Ultrasound Probes	5b. GRANT NUMBER
	5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER
6. AUTHOR(S)	5d. PROJECT NUMBER
	5e. TASK NUMBER
	5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) **Naval Hospital Bremerton,Bremerton,WA,98312**	8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)	10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)
	11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT
Approved for public release; distribution unlimited

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES
presented at the 2011 Military Health System Conference, January 24-27, National Harbor, Maryland

14. ABSTRACT

15. SUBJECT TERMS

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT	18. NUMBER OF PAGES	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT **unclassified**	b. ABSTRACT **unclassified**	c. THIS PAGE **unclassified**	**Same as Report (SAR)**	**9**	

Project Background

- Proactive evaluation of high-level disinfection (HLD) process
- Vaginal ultrasound probes selected
- 5 clinical areas
- Lean Six Sigma and H-FMEA methodologies
- Multidisciplinary team
- 6 months

Key Findings

- HLD is a complicated process
- Multiple guidelines to follow
- Measurement tool needed
- Obsolete equipment in use
- Centralization of HLD not practical
- Staff apprehensive to fully immerse probes
- Practical, economical solutions identified
- Leadership support imperative

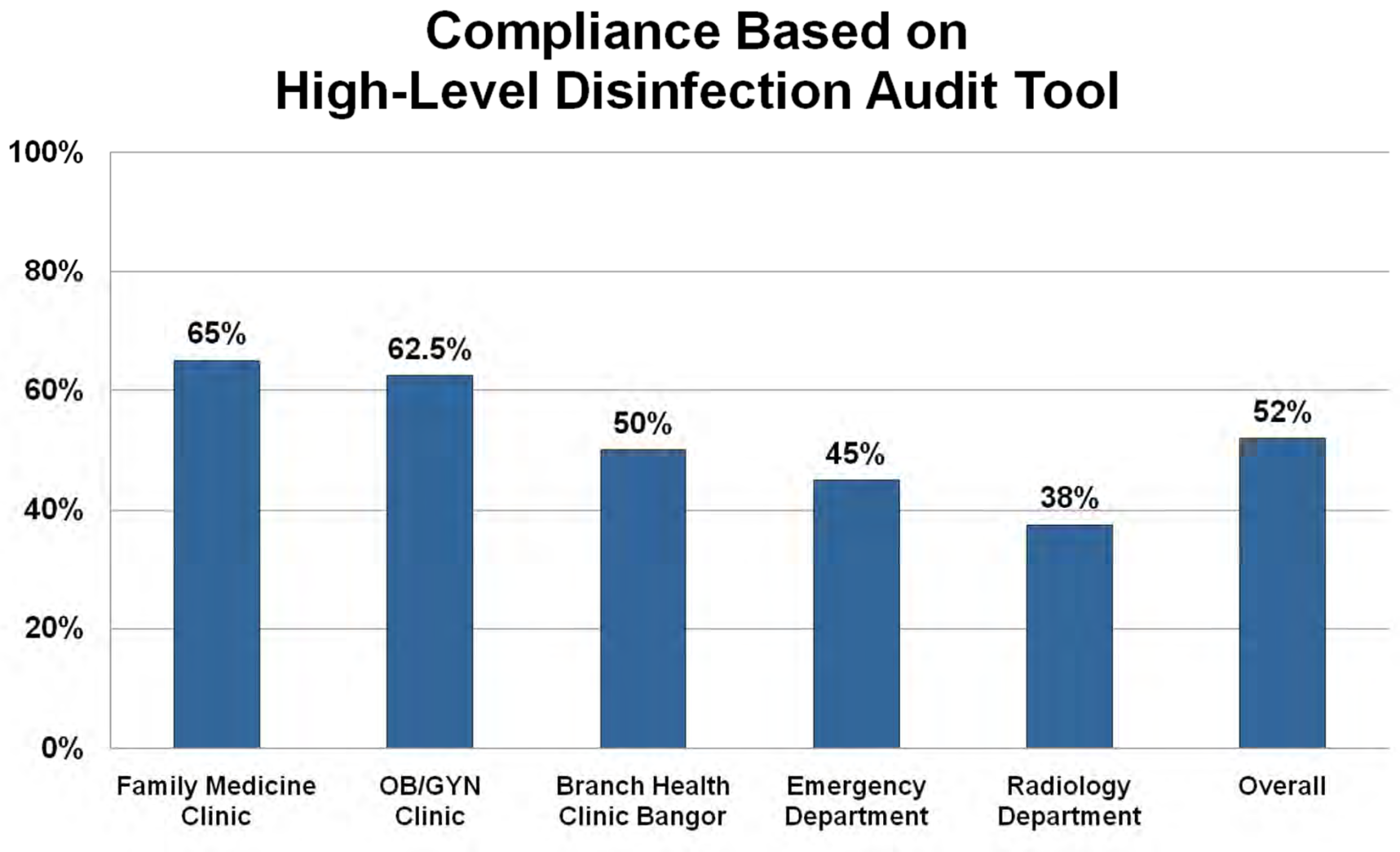
High-Level Disinfection Audit Tool

Note: Design and Process sections omitted to improve visibility

STANDARD	POINTS	YES	NO
Equipment			
5. Is a clock or timer in the room?	1		
6. Are gloves in the room?	1		
7. Are goggles or eye protection in the room?	1		
8. Are gowns in the room?	1		
9. Is the disinfectant solution container the appropriate size?	1		
10. Is there a rinse container?	1		
11. Is the rinse container the appropriate size for high volume rinse (2 gallons)?	1		
12. Are step-by-step instructions clearly posted on the wall?	1		
13. Are equipment manufacturer guidelines readily available?	1		
14. Are disinfectant solution manufacturer guidelines readily available?	1		
Overall			
25. Are the equipment manufacturer guidelines followed?	2		
26. Are the disinfectant solution manufacturer guidelines followed?	2		

SCORING:	Today	Previously	**EVALUATION:**
POINTS EARNED			Excellent = 90 % – 100%
POINTS POSSIBLE	40		Satisfactory = 80 % – 89%
COMPLIANCE (%)			Unsatisfactory = 79 % or below

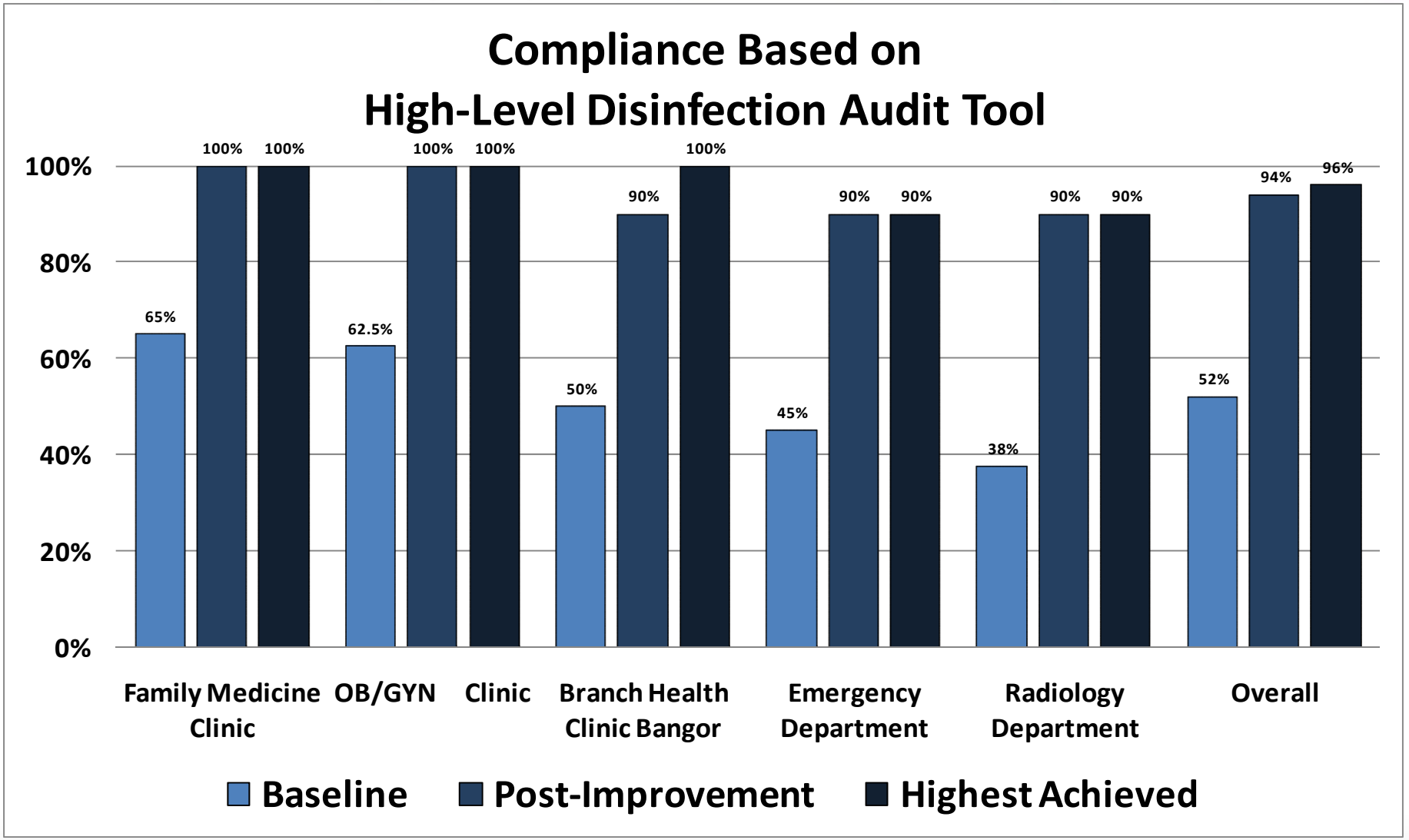
Baseline


Compliance Based on
High-Level Disinfection Audit Tool
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
65%
62.5%
50%
45%
38%
52%
Family Medicine Clinic
OB/GYN Clinic
Branch Health Clinic Bangor
Emergency Department
Radiology Department
Overall

Failure Modes and Effects Analysis

Failure Modes and Effects (Risk)		Baseline Risk				Risk Reduction	Revised Risk			
Process Step	**Failure Mode & Effect**	**Sev**	**Occ**	**Det**	**RPN**	**Recommended Actions**	**Sev**	**Occ**	**Det**	**RPN**
Disinfectant tested once daily in AM	Disinfectant not tested prior to each use, concentration ineffective	10	5	10	**500**	Test disinfectant prior to each use	10	1	10	**100**
3/4 of probe handle immersed in disinfectant	Probe partially immersed in disinfectant, contaminated area of probe not disinfected	5	10	5	**250**	Fully immerse probe handle and 12-18 inches of cord in disinfectant	5	1	5	**25**
Probe air - dried following disinfection	Bacterial growth encouraged due to delayed drying time, probe contaminated	5	5	10	**250**	Dry probe with sterile gauze following disinfection	5	1	10	**50**
Probe returned to exam room uncovered	Uncovered probe transported through clinic, probe contaminated	1	5	10	**50**	Cover probe with clean cloth for transport and storage	1	1	10	**10**
Total					**1050**					**185**

Results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100%
100%
62.5%
100%
100%
50%
90%
100%
45%
90%
90%
38%
90%
90%
52%
94%
96%
Family Medicine Clinic
OB/GYN Clinic
Branch Health Clinic Bangor
Emergency Department
Radiology Department
Overall
Baseline
Post-Improvement
Highest Achieved

Post Improvement

Benefits

- Improved compliance
- Decreased process variation
- Safer patient care environment
- Easily replicated in other clinical areas
- Successful use of LSS to improve patient care
- Team satisfaction
- Easily sustained